

- *ENEMIES IN THE PROMISED*
LAND 181

But what had happened ? Had New
Switzer-
land been invaded by a band of those
pirates
who were so numerous at that period in
the Indian
Ocean, where the Andamans and
Nicobars offered
them a safe place of refuge ? Had the
Zermatts
and Wolstons been able to leave Rock
Castle In
time, and retire elsewhere, or even flee
from the
island ? Had they fallen into the hands
of the
pirates—or had they lost their lives in
an attempt
at self-defence ?

And, one last question, had all this
happened a
few months ago, or a few weeks ago, or a
few days
ago, and would it have been possible
to prevent
it if the *Unicorn* had arrived within
the time ar-

^range
d ?

Jenny made a brave effort to keep
back her
tears, while Susan and Dolly sobbed
together.

Frank wanted to rush to find his father
and mother
and brothers, and Fritz was obliged to
hold him
back. Captain Gould and the
boatswain went
out several times to examine the
ground near
the palisade, but came back without
having
found anything to throw light on the
matter-

- Some decision, however, had to be arrived at. Was it better to remain at Falconhurst and await events there, or to go down to Rock Castle ignorant of how matters stood ? Should they make a reconnaissance, leaving the women and Bob in "James's protection, while Fritz, Frank, and Captain